

Remarks

With this response, applicants have amended claims 1, 7-10, 13, 15, 18 and 20 and adds new claims 21-26. Thus, claims 1-26 are presently pending. Consideration and allowance of each of these claims is respectfully requested.

1. Drawing Objections

An amended drawing sheet labeled "Replacement Sheet" in red is enclosed herewith. It has been amended in red to indicate that Fig. 1 refers to the prior art and to include the appropriate cross-hatching in Figs. 1 and 2 to indicate that sheath 109 (Fig. 1) and sheath 8 (Fig. 2) are made of a synthetic resin or plastic material in accordance with MPEP Section 608.02. Consideration and entry of these drawing amendments is respectfully requested. After entry and approval of these drawing amendments, applicants will then submit formal drawings that include these drawing amendments.

2. Claim Objections under 37 CFR § 1.75(d)

The appropriate claims have been amended to address the objections made under 37 CFR §1.75 (d). For example, claims 8, 15, 18, and 20 have been amended to eliminate the word "conduit," and the term "channel" has been substituted therefor. Similarly, claims 8 and 15 have been amended to cancel the occurrence of the term "a heat" in front of the term "expansion coefficient" to address the these claim objections. As such, these claims are believed to be presented in condition for allowance and their allowance is respectfully requested.

3. Claim Objections

Claim 1 has been amended to insert -- of wire -- after each occurrence of the term "the strands." As such, it is believed that claim 1 is now presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 has been amended to overcome the objection under 37 CFR §1.75 by canceling the term "crimped" and substituting therefor the term "deformed." As such, applicant submits that claim 9 is no longer a substantial duplicate of independent claim 15, which recites that a portion of the tubular housing is crimped against the wire. Since claim 9 now recites "deformed" instead of "crimped," claim 9 is broader in this respect than claim 15. More specifically, crimping is a specific type of deformation. As such, it is believed that claims 9 and 15 are now both presented in condition for allowance and their allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 has been amended to overcome the objection under 37 CFR §1.75 by making it depend from independent claim 8. As such, claim 13 can no longer be considered a substantial duplicate of claim 17, even though it was not believed to be a substantial duplicate of this claim in the first place. As such, it is believed that claims 13 and 17 are now both presented in condition for allowance and their allowance is respectfully requested.

It is believed that sufficient antecedent basis exists for the limitation "the channel" in line 7 of claim 18 because line 3 recites "an interior surface [of the tubular housing] that defines a generally cylindrical channel therein." As such, it is believed that withdrawal of this objection is proper. It is believed that claim 18 is now presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested.

4. Rejections under 35 USC § 112

To address the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC §112, the phrase "being realized in" has been replaced with the phrase "comprised of." As such, it is believed that claim 1 is now presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested.

To address the rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC §112, the phrase "for example" has been canceled. As such, it is believed that claim 7 is now presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested.

5. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 1

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yves et al., French patent number 2683396 A1. In response, claim 1 has been amended so it further recites "a ductile and conductive material disposed between the intermediate tube and the strands of wire." Yves et al. fails to disclose, teach or suggest a connecting device for linking a contact element and stranded wire that includes a ductile and conductive material located between the tube and stranded wire. For at least this reason, claim 1 is believed to be presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6

While dependent claims 2-6 are believed to be independently patentable, each one of these claims ultimately depends from claim 1, a claim believed to be presented in condition for allowance. As such, it is believed that each of these dependent claims is presented in condition for allowance and their allowance is respectfully requested.

6. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 1

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected dependent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Derry, U.S. Patent No. 4,915,657. The claimed invention recited in independent claim 1 requires the intermediate tube to have a dilation coefficient similar to that of the wire to help the tube expand or contract at roughly the same rate as the wire. In addition, the claimed invention further requires the intermediate tube to have a rigidity similar to that of the contact element such that it is capable of being supported by the contact element. This combination of requiring the intermediate tube to have a dilation coefficient similar to that of the wire and a structural rigidity similar to that of the contact element advantageously produces a connecting device that maintains the connection between the contact element and

wire even when subjected to forces tending to pull everything apart. As a result, the claimed combination cannot be and is not a matter of design choice.

In addition, claim 1 has been amended so it further recites "a ductile and conductive material disposed between the intermediate tube and the strands of wire." Derry fails to disclose, teach or suggest a connecting device for linking a contact element and stranded wire that includes a ductile and conductive material located between the tube and stranded wire. For at least this further reason, claim 1 is believed to be presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6

While dependent claims 2-6 are believed to be independently patentable, each one of these claims ultimately depends from claim 1, a claim believed to be presented in condition for allowance. As such, it is believed that each of these dependent claims is presented in condition for allowance and their allowance is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2, 5 and 6 are believed presented in condition for allowance for the same reasons set forth in support of allowability of claim 1. As such, allowance of each of these claims is respectfully requested.

7. Newly Presented Claims

Claim 21

Independent claim 21 is believed to be presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested. For example, none of the cited art, including Yves et al. and Derry, alone or in combination with each other or another reference of record, disclose, teach, or suggest a straight and elongate metal tube that has a channel with a plurality of sections of differing diameters with one end of the channel receiving an electrical contact and the other end of the channel receiving a stranded wire with there being an electrically conductive material disposed in the channel that is more ductile than the tube and located between the tube and the stranded wire and the tube being made of a material that has an expansion coefficient that is

substantially the same as that of the stranded wire. For at least these reasons, claim 21 is believed presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-24

Claims 22-24 ultimately depend from independent claim 21, a claim that is believed presented in condition for allowance. While each of these dependent claims is believed to present independently patentable subject matter, it is believed that each of these dependent claims stands allowable for the same reasons with regard to independent claim 21.

Claim 25

Independent claim 25 is believed to be presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested. Independent claim 25 is believed to be in condition for allowance because none of the aforementioned cited references of record, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest the invention recited in claim 25. For example, none of the aforementioned cited references of record, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest a connector for electrically linking a stranded wire to an electrical contact that includes an elongate tube with the channel in it that extends along a substantially straight line (e.g., is straight) that has an electrical contact received in one opening of the channel and has a stranded wire received in the other opening of the channel with the tube being made of a material having an expansion coefficient substantially the same as that of the stranded wire and including an electrically conductive and ductile material disposed in the channel and located between the tube and the stranded wire. For at least these reasons, claim 25 is believed presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 26

Independent claim 26 is believed to be presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested. Independent claim 26 is believed to be in condition for allowance because none of the aforementioned cited references of record, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest the invention recited in claim 26. For at least these

Serial No. 10/622,963
Art Unit: 2839
Page 14 of 14

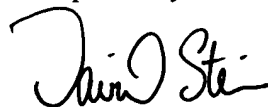
reasons, claim 26 is believed presented in condition for allowance and its allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion and Petition for One Month Extension

With this response, a check is enclosed in the amount of \$482, of which \$110 is allotted for a one month extension of time from October 22, 2004 to November 22, 2004 and \$372 is allotted for the addition of six (6) claims and three (3) additional independent claims. No other fees are believed to be payable with this communication. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview with applicant's attorney would facilitate the prosecution and allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: October 25, 2004

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